Minnesota Hospital Trustee Conference

25 March 1989

Dear Harold,

Yes, we missed the worst weather, coming back to find 3 and 4 ft. drifts in our driveway. Now it's in the 60's and everything is melting. March is our biggest snow month.

Good to hear that Hal Verb is alive and well, When you get a chance, could you send me his address/phone number, etc.?

Yes, I not only remember the Little Blue Books, but remember well Hal's interest in those little book and in comic books.

On the vacation little Alexander had a fine time in a little inner tube in the kiddie pool. He is so immobile by comparison on land it was a joy to see him be about to move around the pool. So, we're now looking for a kiddie pool of the right depth around here. His feet (ideally) need to be able to touch the bottom)

Just when things were looking good and we thought we'd dodged the major bullets, we were plunged into anxiety and some despair last week. We had gone to the pediatric endocrinologist to set up a series of hormone injections designed to help find his undescended testicles. Then a second series of injections would try to enlarge them so they drop down. Failing that, he'd have surgery.

Quite unexpectedly the endocrinologist asked us if the Prader-Willi syndrome had been considered? This disorder, which emerges around age 5, is characterized by excessive eating, obesity, and behavior problems, plus mental retardation! Apparently the kids are born hypotonic--like Alex. So, we're now busily researching it and awaiting a chromosomal study--it has chromosomal

identifiers. We're not sure why it hasn't been raised before, and this caused us to start looking at the medical library for any other syndromes which haven't been ruled out. We thought that all of them had, and that we were simply dealing with an undiagnosed benigh condition.

Unfortunately, even if the chromosomal test is negative, he still could have the problem, so we're going to be worried until age 5 or 6! What a nightmare!

Obviously the thought that he would not only have serious difficulties but that he could end up, once mature,in a group home, is the worst fear any parent could have. This is intensified in our case, since we're older parents and would expect any child to outlive us by many years.

So, cross your fingers that he doesn't have this disorder.

On another topic, Ross Ralson and a fellow named Rick Anderson, two long-time buffs, are still following things and call occasionally. Ross didn't finish his Ph.D., having been failed on his oral exam, but now hopes, next year, to be again working on a Ph.D., this time at Iowa State. (He was at U. of Missouri.)

Your memory about my dissertation is accurate. I had hoped to be doing it by now--the topic is the evaluation and development of rehabilitation plans for professionals who are personally impaired. However, I decided to try to get this book done earlier, and then use parts of it in the dissertation. The book has falled way behind and I can only hope to get it out soon before it drives me crazy. You are probably much better adjusted to having yourhome be cluttered with pieces of unfinished books which continually remind you of the need

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to finish it.

I haven't read the Garrison book but Ross Ralston read me some parts of it over the phone about the Boxley incidents. It was certainly distorted. It's too bad that, despite his intelligence, he didn't run a good investigation and didn't get so distracted by bullshit. He was close to some important stuff, as you show in Oswald in New ### Orleans.

Thanks for the info on Sylvia. I don't know the two people you mentioned.

Well, I'd better go now. Give my best to ### Lil.

Gary